

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1.(Original) An automatic level-control floating apparatus comprising:

 a fixed casing resting on the water bottom or supported by a support set on the water bottom;

 the fixed casing having a top open to the atmosphere;

 the fixed casing filled with liquid;

 a piston body floating on the liquid in the fixed casing in such a manner that the piston body can move vertically;

 a floating tank integral with and positioned outside the piston body;

 the floating tank floating on the water;

 the floating tank having a top open to the atmosphere;

 the floating tank filled with liquid;

 a floating body for supporting the bottom of a superstructure above the water;

 the floating body floating on the liquid in the floating tank in such a manner that the floating body can move vertically; and

 a communicating line connecting the interior of the floating tank and the interior of the fixed casing so that the liquid can flow between the tank and the casing;

 wherein the level of the floating body can be controlled automatically.

2.(Original) An automatic level-control floating apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the communicating line is formed out of flexible and elastic material.

3.(Currently Amended) An automatic level-control floating apparatus according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein the ratio of the cross-sectional area of the piston body to the cross-sectional area of the interior of the floating tank is about 1.

4.(Currently Amended) A structure comprising:

a plurality of automatic level-control floating apparatuses according to ~~any one of~~ ~~Claims 1—3; claim 1;~~

the floating apparatuses spaced from each other;

a superstructure positioned over the floating apparatuses; and

connectors each interposed between the superstructure and the floating body of one of the floating apparatuses;

the connectors each allowing the superstructure and the associated floating body to be displaced relative to each other.

5.(Currently Amended) An automatic level-control floating apparatus according to ~~any one of Claims 1—4~~ claim 1, wherein the superstructure is a pontoon bridge.

6.(Original) An automatic level-control floating apparatus comprising:

a support set on the water bottom;

an annular fixed casing supported by the support;

the fixed casing having a top open to the atmosphere;

the fixed casing filled with liquid;

an annular piston body floating on the liquid in the fixed casing in such a manner that the piston body can move vertically;

a floating tank integral with and positioned within the piston body;

the floating tank floating on the water;

the floating tank having a top open to the atmosphere;

the floating tank filled with liquid;

a floating body for supporting the bottom of a superstructure above the water;

the floating body floating on the liquid in the floating tank in such a manner that the floating body can move vertically; and

a communicating line connecting the interior of the floating tank and the interior of

the fixed casing so that the liquid can flow between the tank and the casing;
wherein the level of the floating body can be controlled automatically.

7.(Original) An automatic level-control floating apparatus according to Claims 6, wherein the superstructure is a floating floor.

8.(Original) An automatic level-control floating apparatus according to Claims 6, wherein the support comprises a tension anchor including:

an anchor fixed to the water bottom; and
a chain or a wire rope connecting the anchor and the fixed casing.

9.(New) An automatic level-control floating apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the ratio of the cross-sectional area of the piston body to the cross-sectional area of the interior of the floating tank is about 1.

10. (New) A structure comprising:

a plurality of automatic level-control floating apparatuses according claim 2;
the floating apparatuses spaced from each other;
a superstructure positioned over the floating apparatuses; and
connectors each interposed between the superstructure and the floating body of
one of the floating apparatuses;
the connectors each allowing the superstructure and the associated floating body
to be displaced relative to each other.

11.(New) A structure comprising:

a plurality of automatic level-control floating apparatuses according claim 3;
the floating apparatuses spaced from each other;
a superstructure positioned over the floating apparatuses; and
connectors each interposed between the superstructure and the floating body of

one of the floating apparatuses;

the connectors each allowing the superstructure and the associated floating body to be displaced relative to each other.

12.(New) An automatic level-control floating apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the superstructure is a pontoon bridge.

13.(New) An automatic level-control floating apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the superstructure is a pontoon bridge.

14.(New) An automatic level-control floating apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the superstructure is a pontoon bridge.